



ARMY ACQUISITION REFORM



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ARMY LEADS IN **SMALL BUSINESS** AWARDS

Within DOD, the Army continues to lead in awarding the greatest percentage of Small Business contracts. Army has consistently exceeded all of the primary goals assigned by OSD for small business, small disadvantaged business (SDB), women owned small businesses and Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions. Fiscal Year 96 accomplishments represent the Army's best performance ever and demonstrates how [Acquisition Reform and Small Business are compatible](#). The Secretary of the Army announced that small business prime contractors were awarded \$8.1B in contracts which accounted for 30 percent of the total dollars awarded. Additionally, the Army awarded \$2.6B or 9.6% of their dollars to small disadvantaged business, surpassing all other years since Congress legislated a 5% SDB goal to DOD in 1987. The Army also set a new record for awards to Women Owned Small Businesses who received more than \$800M or 3.0% of Army's contract awards.

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MILLIONS AVAILABLE FOR **MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ** PROGRAM



\$53 million is available to fund approved *mentor-protégé agreements*. The DOD FY97 Authorization Act extended the date for new mentor-protégé agreements to September 30, 1998 and extended the date for incurring costs which are eligible for reimbursement to September 30, 1999. DOD is strongly encouraging interested mentors to submit requests for participation in the **Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP)** in accordance with the DOD policy for the MPP. (A copy of this guidance is available from the Internet at [**http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadb**](http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadb) or by calling the **MPP Hotline at 1-800-553-1858**). To expedite the review process, companies are not required to submit a letter of intent. Prospective mentors interested in applying for reimbursement should coordinate requests with the Army Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) Office. Additionally, the Army SADBU Office is initiating a pilot mentor-protégé program where graduated 8(a) firms would act as mentors to emerging 8(a) companies. A solicitation for proposed agreements is planned for release in January 1997.